

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the second paragraph on page 1 with the following paragraph:

Non-woven fabrics made from thermoplastic synthetic fibers are well-known in the art and in widespread commercial use under such trade names as Tyvek® and Sontara®, both available from the DuPont Company, and the like. Tyvek® is a registered trademark of E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company and is the generic term for spun bonded polyolefin material. Sontara® is a registered trademark of E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company and is the generic term for spunlaced non-woven fabric.

Please replace the partial sentence on the top of page 11 with the following lines:

the fibrous mat precursor, with polyaramid fibers, such as Nomex® (a registered trademark of E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company, and the generic term for fire and heat-resistant aramid material) or Kevlar® (a registered trademark of E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company, and the generic term for poly-para-phenylene terephthalamide fiber) fibers available from the DuPont Company, to enhance the strength, thermal resistance and puncture resistance of the resulting fabric.